

KEHOE'S CORNER

News from the office of Senator Christine Kehoe



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Committees

Local Government, Chair
Budget and Fiscal Review
Energy, Utilities
and Communications

Natural Resources & Water
Transportation & Housing
Joint Committee on
Homeland Security and
Emergency Services, Chair

Legislative Update

Emergency Services Legislative Hearing in San Diego:

How do we prevent the next firestorm?

I chair the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, an investigatory committee that provides a public forum to discuss California's emergency services and makes necessary legislative recommendations regarding our state's emergency and security services.

In San Diego on November 29, the Committee will hold a hearing to review our state's fire preparedness. The Committee will evaluate the status of the 48 legislative recommendations made by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission in the aftermath of the 2003 firestorms. This is the second in a series of hearings to determine the state's preparedness for both natural and man-made disasters. The public is invited to comment.

Hearing Details:

Tuesday, November 29, 2005
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

City of San Diego Fire & Life Safety Services
Regional Public Safety Training Institute
4347 North Harbor Drive
Classroom 2, Building 608, 1st Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

For more information on this or upcoming hearings, call (619) 645-3133.

Preparing Yourself for a Disaster

Are you prepared to protect yourself and your family in case of an emergency? Are you prepared if basic services – water, gas, electricity or telephones – are cut off?

We should all know how to respond to a disaster in our area. We should be prepared with emergency supplies in our home, have an evacuation plan should we need to access public shelters, as well as have a plan in place for pet care.

Being prepared can help reduce our fear, anxiety, and the property loss that can accompany disasters. We should plan in advance. We should think about the places where our family spends time (school, work), and we should know how to contact loved ones in case of separation. By planning ahead and practicing what you will do in different situations, we can be better prepared.

Here are 10 ways YOU can be Disaster Prepared, as outlined by the Office of Emergency Services:

1. Identify Your Risk -What are the hazards where you live or work? Find out what natural or human caused disasters pose a risk for you. Do you live near a flood plain, an earthquake fault, or in a high fire danger area? Are you prepared for an unexpected human-made disaster that can strike any time? Does your neighborhood or community have a disaster plan?

2. Create a Family Disaster Plan - Your family needs a plan that tells everyone: where to meet if you have to evacuate; who you've identified as an out-of-state "family contact"; how to get emergency information in your community; and how to take care of your family pets.

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Preparing Yourself for a Disaster – *cont'd from page 1*



Senator Kehoe talks about the State's fire preparedness - 2004

3. **Practice Your Disaster Plan** - After you have sat down with your family and written your plan — practice it. Start by having family members meet at a designated spot outside your home — like you would after a fire or after the shaking stops. Know how to respond in the event of any disaster — whether to stay put indoors, or whether to evacuate your neighborhood by car. If your family needs to evacuate, know the proper evacuation procedures and routes as determined by you local OES office.
4. **Build a Disaster Supply Kit For Your Home and Car** - If you are stranded in your car or have to be self-sufficient at home until help arrives, you need to have a disaster kit with you.
5. **Prepare Your Children** - Talk to your kids about what the risks are and what your family will do if disaster strikes.
6. **Don't Forget Those With Special Needs** - Infants, seniors and those with special needs must not be forgotten.
7. **Learn CPR and First Aid** - Contact you local chapter of the American Red Cross today and get trained on basic first aid and CPR. Your training could save the life of a loved one or neighbor following a disaster.
8. **Eliminate Hazards in Your Home and The Workplace** - You must secure the contents of your home or office to reduce hazards, especially during shaking from an earthquake or from an explosion.
9. **Understand Post 9/11 Risks** - Disaster preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.
10. **Get Involved, Volunteer, Bear Responsibility** - Donate blood, join a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), educate your neighbor, or volunteer with you local American Red Cross.

For more detailed information you can go to California's Office of Emergency Services website at www.oes.ca.gov. The American Red Cross is also a resource for disaster preparedness and can be contacted at www.redcross.org.

For more information on the Joint Committee of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, email me at Senator.Kehoe@sen.ca.gov.

Special Election Voter Turnout

About 50% of San Diego's 1,300,000 registered voters cast a vote on November 8.

November's Special Election has come and gone, and the voters have spoken.

Across the state, Californians voted against all of the initiatives on the ballot. In San Diego, Jerry Sanders was elected as our next mayor, and there will be a runoff on January

8 for the District 2 and 8 City Councilmembers.

According to the Secretary of State's Office, about 50% of San Diego's 1,300,000 registered voters cast a vote on November 8.

For details on voter turnout for the entire state

go to the Secretary of State's website at: <http://www.ss.ca.gov> and click on Election Results.

To see a breakdown of the votes for San Diego candidates, go the San Diego County Registrar of Voters' website at:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/voters/Eng/Eindex.html>.

State Agency Websites

Below is a partial listing of frequently-used state agency websites.

For a complete listing of state agencies, go to the State of California's website at www.ca.gov, and click on **State Agency Index** listed under "Quick Hits" in the lower right hand corner.

Employment Development Department	www.edd.ca.gov
Ca. Coastal Commission	www.coastal.ca.gov
Ca. Energy Commission	www.energy.ca.gov
Dept. of Parks & Recreation	www.parks.ca.gov
Dept. of Consumer Affairs	www.dca.ca.gov
Dept. of Fair Housing	www.cfeh.ca.gov
Franchise Tax Board	www.ftb.ca.gov
Office of Emergency Services	www.oes.ca.gov
Dept. of Veterans Affairs	www.cdva.ca.gov
Dept. of Ca Highway Patrol	www.chp.ca.gov
Dept. of Motor Vehicles	www.dmv.ca.gov
Dept. of Health Services	www.dhs.ca.gov
Dept. of Insurance	www.insurance.ca.gov
Secretary of State	www.ss.ca.gov

NTC Promenade: destination of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology

In October I joined the Board of Trustees of the NTC Foundation as they announced the official launch of the NTC Promenade Capital and Legacy Gifts Campaign.

Campaign co-chairs Murray Galinson and Judy McDonald announced the \$27,600,000 Phase 1 Campaign - which supports the transformation of the first 6 of 26 historic buildings

on 28 acres at the former San Diego Naval Training Center into NTC Promenade, a new flagship destination for Arts, Culture, Science and Technology at Liberty Station.

NTC Promenade's first four buildings will provide a collaborative setting for 17 creative nonprofit resident groups. For more information, go to www.ntcpromenade.org.



Senator Kehoe and Scott McMillin at the NTC Promenade in October 2005.

For more information on the Promenade, go to www.ntcpromenade.org.

Contact Information

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Website

www.senate.ca.gov/Kehoe

Committee Assignments

- *Local Government, Chair*
- *Budget and Fiscal Review*
- *Energy, Utilities
and Communications*
- *Natural Resources & Water*
- *Transportation & Housing*
- *Joint Committee on
Homeland Security
and Emergency
Services, Chair*

Holiday Event –

Join me at the opening of the 19th Annual Poinsettia Display - Dec 2

Magnificent poinsettias turn Balboa Park's historic wood lath Botanical Building into a glowing tribute to the holidays.

Built for the 1915–16 Exposition, along with the adjacent Lily Pond, the historic building is one of the largest lath structures in the world. The seasonal display, offered to San Diegans and guests for the nineteenth year, will be open from 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 2, 2005 until January 4, 2006.

In addition to this popular seasonal display, the Botanical Building contains over 2,100 permanent tropical plants, a carnivorous plant bog, and a 'touch and smell' garden. The Botanical Building is free and open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday through Wednesday, but will be closed on Sunday, December 25; Monday, December 26; Sunday, January 1 and Monday, January 2 for City holidays.

Sign up to receive Senate Democratic Caucus Newsletter

developed a monthly electronic newsletter entitled, "Under the Dome," that will highlight democratic members and their legislative achievements.

If you would like to sign up to receive this electronic newsletter, email me at senator.kehoe@sen.ca.gov.

Brochures and California Constitution books available!

Various brochures as well as booklets containing the California Constitution are now available from my office. Brochure topics include:

- Medi-Cal Senior Fact Sheet
- Veterans Resource Guide
- Identity Theft
- Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients
- A Citizen's Guide to Lobbying

If you would like a free copy, please contact my office at (619) 645-3133 or Senator.Kehoe@sen.ca.gov.